

ACPERA promotes the detection and prosecution of illegal cartel behavior by giving participants in a price-fixing cartel powerful incentives to report the cartel to the Justice Department and cooperate in its prosecution.

Cartel violations are some of the worst crimes perpetrated on the American consumer, yet they are too often crimes we cannot see, as all the criminal activity takes place in secret meetings behind closed doors.

Price-fixing cartels can go undetected for years, possibly forever. With hundreds of millions (or even billions) of dollars worth of unlawful profits at stake, these criminal cartels are very effective at finding ways to keep their actions secret.

In August 1993, the Department of Justice Antitrust Division revised its corporate leniency program. Designed to destabilize these cartels, the program offered amnesty from criminal prosecution for companies and their executives involved in these conspiracies if they were the first of the conspirators (and not the ringleader) to reach out to the DOJ's Antitrust Division and fully cooperate with its criminal investigation.

But there was still a disincentive for cartel participants to come forward, because they remained liable for treble damages and joint and several liability in accompanying civil litigation.

Five years ago, Congress gave the Justice Department's Antitrust Division a new weapon to attack this disincentive head-on. ACPERA addressed this shortcoming in the leniency program by also limiting the cooperating party's exposure to liability in related civil litigation.

ACPERA empowers the Justice Department to limit the civil liability of a cooperating party to single damages. The remaining co-conspirators, however, remain jointly and severally liable for all damages.

In this way, the Act strikes a carefully-crafted balance, encouraging the cartel members to turn on each other, while ensuring full compensation to the victims.

The positive impact of this law cannot be overstated. ACPERA aided the Antitrust Division in obtaining just over \$1 billion in criminal fines in Fiscal Year 2009.

Last year, confronted with the expiration of key provisions of ACPERA, I sponsored a bipartisan 1-year extension of the statute. We solicited input from a number of parties, including the Department of Justice, the American Bar Association, noted academics such as William Kovacic, and representatives of civil litigants, leniency applicants, and cartel whistleblowers.

As Chairman of the Judiciary Committee's Subcommittee on Courts and Competition Policy, I want to ensure that the Justice Department has all the tools it needs to continue its excellent work protecting consumers against price-fixing cartels.

During this process, I heard a number of suggestions for how to improve ACPERA's effectiveness. The legislation I introduce today incorporates a number of these suggestions, and also commissions the Government Accountability Office to perform a 1-year study to examine several others.

Again, I thank Chairman CONYERS for joining me as cosponsor of this important legislation, and I look forward to working with our colleagues in the other body to reauthorize this very important program.

HONORING MR. HAKAN EVIN

HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Hakan Evin for all that he has done over the past 20 years to promote and foster U.S.-Turkish relations. Mr. Evin has used his role as an esteemed Turkish businessman to forge friendships with leaders, diplomats and everyday citizens from the United States, and around the world. Through these efforts he has become an 'Ambassador of Goodwill' and has helped to strengthen the ties between Turkey and the United States.

For nearly 2 decades Mr. Evin has run a successful carpet business at the Grand Bazaar in Istanbul, one of the world's oldest and largest shopping centers. A third-generation shopkeeper, he learned about the art, culture and science of carpet making before joining the family business as an apprentice after high school. Now the owner of several shops in the Bazaar, Mr. Evin has built a reputation for excellence and established a loyal customer base which spans the globe.

Mr. Evin has played host to countless heads of state, foreign dignitaries, business leaders, government officials and celebrities over the past 20 years including President George H. Bush and First Lady Barbara Bush, First Lady Laura Bush, President Bill Clinton and Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and former President of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev. Still, he remains committed to providing outstanding service and top quality products to everyday patrons from around the world. Mr. Evin has made it a point throughout his career to reach out to foreigners living, working and traveling in Turkey, fostering positive feelings among the many individuals he has met towards the Nation.

Additionally, Mr. Evin has brought the deep-rooted history and culture of Turkish rugs to the United States on numerous occasions. He frequently brings many of his rugs to the U.S. and a few years ago brought hundreds of rugs to Lexington, Kentucky. As the guest of L.V. Harkness and its owner Meg Jewett, Lexington became the site of a temporary Grand Bazaar.

Mr. Evin's acumen as a businessman, integrity, honesty and genuine love for America and its people make it easy to be his friend. Thanks Hakan Evin.

ramento, California, and was instrumental in the growth and success of the Los Angeles Chapter.

Known as the godfather of The ALS Association's advocacy efforts, he served as the catalyst and provided seed money for the creation of the association's Advocacy Department. Subsequent advocacy efforts have resulted in nearly \$1 billion of support for research, patient care and advocacy that helps people with ALS throughout the United States.

Dean's success in driving The ALS Association to new heights is typical of his drive in business, sports and advocacy for education and our children.

Dean graduated from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy and served 2 years aboard Standard Oil of California tankers as a third mate before enrolling in Arizona State University, where he graduated with a bachelor's of science degree in construction. In 1968, he joined the company his father founded 4 years earlier as vice president and general manager.

Dean is now the managing member of C. A. Rasmussen Co., LLC, and emeritus chairman of the board of C. A. Rasmussen, Inc., a privately-held, general engineering contracting firm that builds highways and other infrastructure throughout California.

Among Dean's other activities, he is a former member of the Liberty Mutual Insurance Company Advisory Board, emeritus member of the board of trustees of Harvey Mudd College and former trustee/president of Harvey Mudd College's Friends Committee. He is also a former trustee and campaign chairman of Viewpoint School in Calabasas, California, past president of the Southern California Contractors Association and emeritus director of Casa Pacifica (an abused children's home serving Ventura County).

Dean enjoys spending time with his wife, Kathleen, and his four children; reading history; collecting shotguns and fine wines; as well as bird hunting and other shooting sports. He is a member the Ventura County Game Preserve Association, the Point Mugu Gun Club, a life member of the National Rifle Association, and is on the Board of the L. C. Smith Collectors Association.

Madam Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in congratulating my wife, Janice's, and my friend of 40 years, Dean Rasmussen for earning The ALS Association Lifetime Achievement Award and in thanking him for a lifetime of service to his community and country.

CLARIFYING MINIMUM ESSENTIAL COVERAGE

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 12, 2010

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5014, legislation to ensure the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Spina Bifida Program and the Children of Women Vietnam Veterans Health Care Program constitutes minimum essential coverage under the new health care reform law, the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (P.L. 111-148).

While the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act explicitly states that it covers health

IN TRIBUTE TO DEAN RASMUSSEN

HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 19, 2010

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in tribute to Dean Rasmussen, businessman, philanthropist and recipient of this year's ALS Association's Lifetime Achievement Award.

Dean's father died from ALS, commonly called Lou Gehrig's Disease, more than 20 years ago. Always a man of action, Dean joined the National Board of Directors for The ALS Association. He spearheaded advocacy programs in Washington, DC, and Sac-